



Stoneham Reads™

building community: one book at a time

Embracing Diversity: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Literature and Community

Stoneham Reads 2024 Book Recommendations



Genre	Sub-genre	Title	Author/Illustrator	Description
Adult	Western	Outlawed	Anna North	Featuring an irresistibly no-nonsense and determined heroine, <i>Outlawed</i> dusts off the myth of the old West and reignites the glimmering promise of the frontier with an entirely new set of feminist stakes. A pulse-racing, page-turning saga about the search for hope in the wake of death, and for truth in a climate of small-mindedness and fear.
Adult	Science Fiction	This is How You Lose the Time War	Amal El-Mohtar & Max Gladstone	"This book has it all: treachery and love, lyricism and gritty action, existential crisis and space-opera scope, not to mention time traveling superagents. Gladstone's and El-Mohtar's debut collaboration is a fireworks display from two very talented storytellers."--Madeline Miller, Winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction
Adult	Literary fiction	Detransition, Baby	Torrey Peters	Reese had what previous generations of trans women could only dream of; the only thing missing was a child. Then her girlfriend, Amy, detransitioned and became Ames, and everything fell apart. Ames thought detransitioning to live as a man would make life easier, but that decision cost him his relationship with Reese, and losing her meant losing his only family. Even though their romance is over, he longs to find a way back to her.
Adult	Fiction	The Thirty Names of Night	Zeyn Joukhadar	Five years after a suspicious fire killed his ornithologist mother, a closeted Syrian American trans boy sheds his birth name and searches for a new one. The only time he feels truly free is when he slips out at night to paint murals on buildings in the once-thriving Manhattan neighborhood known as Little Syria, but he's been struggling ever since his mother's ghost began visiting him each evening.
Adult	Non-fiction, Travel essays	Real Queer America: LGBTQ Stories from Red States	Samantha Allen	A transgender reporter's "powerful, profoundly moving" narrative tour through the surprisingly vibrant queer communities sprouting up in red states (New York Times Book Review), offering a vision of a stronger, more humane America.
Adult	Memoir	Deaf Utopia	Nyle DiMarco	Nyle DiMarco is a Deaf model, actor, and advocate who shares his story as part of the Deaf community and the acceptance of himself as a sexually fluid person. DiMarco gives insight to growing up in the Deaf community, participating in America's Next Top Model and Dancing with the Stars, along with his journey to find himself.
Young Adult	16+ Graphic Novel Series	Heartstopper Series	Alice Oseman	Boy meets boy, boys become friends, boys fall in love. A sweet and charming coming-of-age story that explores friendship, love, and coming out. Made into a show on Netflix.
Young Adult	14+ Romantasy, Semi-historical fiction	Dark and Deepest Red	Anna-Marie McLemore	Summer, 1518. A strange sickness sweeps through Strasbourg: women dance in the streets, some until they fall down dead. As rumors of witchcraft spread, suspicion turns toward Lavinia and her family, and Lavinia may have to do the unimaginable to save herself and everyone she loves. 500 years later Rosella and Emil navigate a similar phenomenon.
Young Adult	14+ Religion/ Identity conflict, Fiction	The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali	Sabina Khan	Unable to come out to her conservative Muslim parents, she keeps that part of her identity hidden. And that means keeping her girlfriend, Ariana, a secret from them too. Luckily, only a few more months stand between her carefully monitored life at home and a fresh start at Caltech in the fall. But when Rukhsana's mom catches her and Ariana together, her future begins to collapse around her.
Family/ Any Age	Humorous light Fantasy	House in the Cerulean Sea	TJ Klune	Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. An enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place--and realizing that family is yours.
Middle Grade	10+ Fiction	Lily and Dunkin	Gephart	Named one of the best books of the year by NPR. A Junior Library Guild Collection. A compelling story about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

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Middle Grade	12+ Fiction	Redwood and Ponytail	KA Holt	Written in verse, alternating between 7th graders, Tam (Redwood) and Kate (Ponytail), whose relationship is growing into something Kate wasn't expecting. This is a story about accepting yourself and coming to terms with your identity. Target age 12+ with themes of fitting in, mental health, self-acceptance, coming out, and coming of age.
Middle Grade	Fiction, Family, Social Sit.	Small Town Pride	Stamper	Finalist for Best Middle Grade and Children's Book A School Library Journal. Jake is just starting to enjoy life as his school's first openly gay kid. While his family and friends are accepting and supportive, the same can't be said about everyone in their small town of Barton Springs, Ohio.
Middle Grade	Fiction, Family, Social Sit.	From Night Owl to Dogfish	Meg Wolitzer & Holly Goldberg Sloan	When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends—and possibly, one day, even sisters. But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. A moving, exuberant, laugh-out-loud novel about friendship and family, told entirely in emails & letters.
Middle Grade	Fiction, Family, Social Sit.	Melissa	Alex Gino	Winner of the 2016 Stonewall Book Award and the 2016 Lambda Literary Award in the category of LGBT Children's/Young Adult. A heartwarming and empowering middle-grade novel that follows the journey of a young transgender girl named Melissa, as she navigates self-discovery, identity, and acceptance.
Middle Grade	Fiction, Family, Social Sit., Neurodivergent	Ellen Outside the Lines	Sass	Thirteen-year-old Ellen Katz feels most comfortable when her life is well planned out and people fit neatly into her predefined categories. Ellen only gets crushes on girls, never boys, and she knows she can always rely on her best-and-only friend, Laurel, to help her in social situations. But on a school trip to Barcelona, Ellen learns to navigate changing friendships and the unexpected.
Middle Grade	Non-fiction	Pride: An Inspirational History of the LGBTQ+ Movement	Stella Caldwell	Winner of the 2021 School Library Association Information Book Award. Take pride in who you are! This inspiring history of the LGBTQ+ community enlightens young readers on the true timeline of LGBTQ+ history around the world, the lives of important figures like Harvey Milk, and iconic events like Stonewall, and the legalization of same-sex marriages across the world.
Children	0-3 yrs Picture Book	My Two Moms and Me	Michael Joosten & Izak Zenou	Families with two moms are celebrated in this board book that follows busy mothers and their kids throughout their day - eating breakfast, going on a playdate, heading to the pool for a swim, and settling back in at night with a bedtime story and a good-night lullaby.
Children	0-4 yrs Picture Book	Pink is for Boys	Robb Pearlman & Eda Kaban	Pink is for boys.. and girls.. and everyone! This timely and beautiful book reframes the stereotypical blue/pink gender binary and empowers kids-and their grown-ups to express themselves in every color of the rainbow.
Children	2+ Picture Book Ages	Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress	Christine Baldacchino	Morris is a little boy who loves using his imagination. But most of all, Morris loves his classroom's dress-up center and its tangerine dress. A sweetly told story about the courage and creativity it takes to be different.
Children	3-5 yrs Picture Book	Peppa Pig - We Love our Families		Madame Gazelle wants Peppa and her friends to draw pictures of their families. Every family is different, and every family is special! Join Peppa and her friends to celebrate all types of families.
Children	2-5 yrs Picture Book	And Tango Makes Three	Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell & Henry Cole	At the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others, but their desire for a family was the same. With the help of a zookeeper, they got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own. One of the most frequently challenged books as reported by the American Library Association.
Children	5-9 yrs Biography	I am Billie Jean King (Ordinary People Change the World)	Brad Meltzer & Christopher Eliopoulos	From a young age, Billie Jean King loved sports—especially tennis! But as she got older, she realized that plenty of people, even respected male athletes, didn't take women athletes seriously. She set to prove them wrong and show girls everywhere that sports are for everyone, regardless of gender.